

Intangible Cultural Heritage Update

News and Notes on Newfoundland and Labrador's Intangible Cultural Heritage Program

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Kicking off ICH in 2015

By Dale Jarvis

February and March have been incredibly busy months here at the Intangible Cultural Heritage office. I started off February with a trip to Regina, for the Heritage Saskatchewan Forum. I gave the conference keynote on NL's ICH strategy, gave a guest lecture for the Johnson Shoyama graduate school for public policy, a half-day workshop for Sask Heritage's Ecomuseum group, and gave a talk to board and staff of Sask Culture on ICH programming and community engagement, and took in one of Heritage Canada Foundation's Main Street events.

Then it was back to St. John's, where we hosted a Brown Bag Lunch - Public Sector Folklore Panel, with Memorial University's Department of Folklore, where former public sector students and HFNL interns talked about their experiences since convocation. On March 7th, we hosted the province's first Youth Heritage Forum, which was a great event, and which you can read about on page 2.

On March 11th, we held a short workshop with the Witless Bay Heritage Committee, to get their ongoing heritage and oral history programs on track, and then later that evening, I moderated "Our Multicultural Province - An Engaging Evening at The Rooms." This was a public talk with three talented and engaged people making a home in St. John's: Zainab Jerrett (Nigeria), Hadi Milanloo (Iran), and Hazel Ouano Alpuerto (Philippines).

At the end of March, HFNL co-hosted "Saving Our Stories," an oral history workshop in Norris Point, held in the historic Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital. We held our booklet launch on traditional games at MacMorran Community Centre (page 3), and following that, I drove out to meet with the heritage committee in Spaniard's Bay, to help them plan out some public history work for the coming year.

We also must say goodbye to two of our contract staff workers, Alanna and Sharon, who have done amazing work over the past few months. Thank you ladies, it's been a slice! #pizzaskeets

Photo: Table moderator Sarah Wade with some of the Youth Heritage Forum 2015 participants. Photo by Jeremy Harnum.

Notes from the Youth Heritage Forum 2015

By Alanna Wicks

Youth Heritage Forum 2015 was a success! On March 7th, 2015, an eager group of sixty youth participants, between the ages of 18 and 35, from various backgrounds attended the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador's first Youth Heritage Forum. The mission of the forum was to give young people engaged in heritage a voice. This is the first time youth from across the province have been provided the opportunity to come together and discuss their role in the heritage sector. The day was full of energy and enthusiasm from our participants! We began with an amazing drumming and smudging ceremony by First Nations Eastern Owl Women's drum circle and an inspiring guest panel comprised of six young women who discussed their exciting work in the heritage sector. The rest of the day consisted of various breakout sessions, during which the participants voiced their opinions about the role of youth in heritage and put forth their recommendations for heritage organizations. It was an exciting day and our participants were ready to talk heritage!

"The optimism that has come from seeing so many young people working together is incredibly inspiring"

6 Ways To Make Your Heritage Organization Youth Inclusive

- **Create Meaningful Opportunities for Youth** - Open seats for youth on executive boards and committees, create volunteer opportunities, plan youth focused programming and workshops, have a youth ambassador, and offer mentorships. You must allow youth a voice within your institution and offer valuable learning experiences.
- **Focus on Funding for Youth Employment** - Explore funding for youth specific employment and advocate for these positions.
- **Use 'Youth Friendly' Channels of Communication** - Use social media to reach a broad audience and engage youth
- **Be Accessible** - When offering opportunities to youth, be sure to maintain flexibility with times and locations.
- **Be Open to New Ideas and Practices** - To further evolve your organization and engage young people you must be open to new ideas and apply them in your operations.
- **Be Social** - Host youth inclusive events. These events serve as networking opportunities both for youth and for your organization as a potential employer.

Our Youth Heritage Forum participants were so passionate about heritage many of them stayed after the forum to talk about 'what's next?'. Participants decided the first step was to create an outlet to stay connected, share advice, and discuss future opportunities. Interested youth can now join Youth Heritage Newfoundland and Labrador on Facebook to connect with like minded youth from across the province.

"I was excited to hear all of the fantastic ideas everyone brought to the table. These big ideas need to become real world applications."

To download the full Youth Heritage Forum report, including a full list of recommendations visit
<http://tinyurl.com/YHF2015report>



Looking Back: Games We Played has hoisted its sails and run

By Sharon King-Campbell

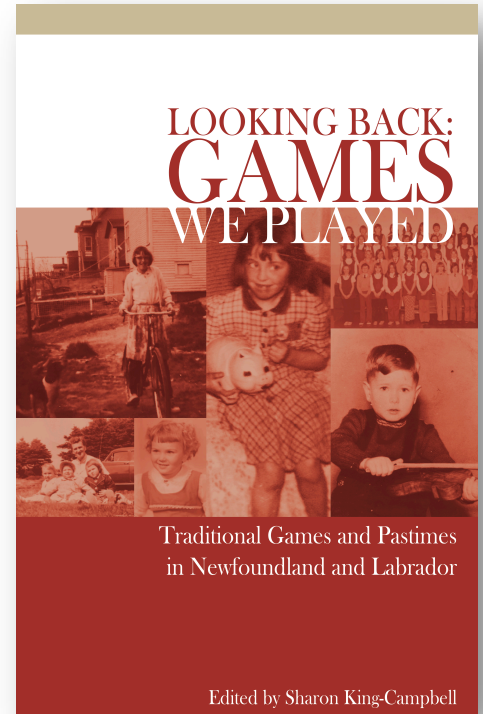
In November, I joined the ICH team to lead the charge on a project all about fun; *Hoist your Sails and Run* was devised as a means of pairing tradition-bearers with young folklorists to discuss the games and pastimes that were popular in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Recruiting senior volunteers from MacMorran Community Centre's 50+ club and through ichblog.ca, we provided an opportunity for seniors and students to talk about games and pastimes that were popular in the '40s, '50s and '60s. We gathered in the community centre's gym on three mornings in February, and enjoyed coffee, tea, treats and a hot lunch during each session.

In addition to the group discussions, the seniors were given the opportunity mentor a student, one on one, to teach them about the games that were played in detail. The students produced a report on each tradition-bearer, and these reports have been compiled into a booklet.

Looking Back: Games We Played received a public launch at MacMorran Community Centre on Tuesday, March 24th, where about 35 volunteers, community members and members of the public gathered to enjoy presentations by representatives from MUN Folklore, a reading by participant Teresa Boland (who wrote an original poem about the experience!), and the opportunity to play some of the games featured in the booklet.

I'm happy to report that the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries have accepted 200 copies of the booklet and distributing them to each of their 95 libraries province-wide, so check your local branch for a look. Or, if you are so inclined, you can read the whole booklet for free online at <http://tinyurl.com/o4kgfep>



As I sign off from this contract, I'd like to express my deepest thanks to Jim Crockwell and Lacey Churchill at MacMorran Community Centre, Emily Blackmore and Anna Swanson at the NL Public Libraries, photographer Phonse King, graphic designer Graham Blair, Dr. Jillian Gould and students Terra Barrett, Sharna Brzycki, Andrea McGuire and Jacquie Ryan, and to all of the tradition bearers who filled out surveys, spoke with me about their memories, or attended the February sessions: Don Antle, Sandra Antle, Cathy Baker, Teresa Boland, Nancy Brace, Marg Connolly, Ann Daniel, Vida Edwards, Winston Fiander, Susan Furneaux, Rochelle Kavanagh, Peter Laracy, Martha Oliver, Berk Reynolds, Paula Roberts, and Madonna Summers.

And a particular thanks to Dale and Alanna, with whom I take the best pictures.

Sharon

Photo by Phonse King.

Ball, Jacks, and Elastics: Playing in Clarendville

By Sharon King-Campbell

Paula Roberts (nee Hynes) grew up in Clarendville in the '60s and '70s. She was an only child for almost nine years until the birth of her brother, Robert, making her family a rarity in her neighbourhood. Most families had many children, and Paula often played with the thirty or forty kids who lived nearby, regardless of age. Paula was a smaller child, and this made some of the most physical games more difficult for her.

"We played games like Red Rover, Red Rover," she says, "which I hated because I was always the smallest person, and they would always stick me on an end, or they would stick me somewhere in the middle and have the two strongest people holding me on either side so that nobody would break through... I hated that."

She also had some trouble with Ball, which was a very popular pastime. When school started in September, you could bet there'd be a crowd of children of all ages on the lopsided baseball field nearby.

"Our field wasn't flat. Home plate and the pitcher's mound and second base were all in a line and they were all... on the flattest part of the field. So to get to first base you had to run down a hill, to get to second base you had to run up a hill, to get from second to third you had to run up a hill, and then third to home was down a hill."



The game was very similar to standard baseball, but it was played with a sponge ball, and runners could be put out by being hit with the ball. And, of course, allowances were made for the youngest and smallest players.

"If you were really good at hitting, they would throw overhand, but if you were someone like me.... when I'd get up to bat, they'd do tossies, so that would be like an underhand throw for baseball. Everybody would spread out for the big guys, and then they'd all come in for me."

Toys weren't available in stores year-round in Clarendville, and would only come out at Christmas. Paula remembers that the upper level of the locally owned general store would be packed with toys around then, and the displays would feature packs of coloured elastics. These were looped together into long lines to play Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, a game where players would compete to leap over and onto the elastics, which were

held at ankle height, and then at knee height ("kneesies") and so on up until the players could no longer clear them. All the while, they would have to recite "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious," the song from the popular Disney film, Mary Poppins. Paula and her friends would play this game in the spring: as soon, she says, as the snow began to melt from the school parking lot.



Photos: (top to bottom) Paula and her brother Robert, 1977; Paula with her dog, Dribbles; Paula and Robert.

Jacks were another popular gift from the store. Paula described the game to me.

“So you’d have all the jacks in your hand along with the ball... so you’d throw the ball up and you’d lay all the jacks down. And so then the thing was, the onesies was really easy cause you’d bounce the ball, you’d pick up a jack, and catch the ball in that hand, and you’d lay that jack aside, and you’d repeat that until all of the jacks were picked up singularly. And then you’d repeat the process and pick up the jacks in pairs of twos, threes, fours, fives The last one would have been trying to pick up all of the jacks at the same time.”

But the best part seems to have been comparing sets with her friends, since not all jacks were created equal.

“The ball was always a rubber ball, like, multicoloured. And sometimes, oh my God, sometimes they would be solid colours and sometimes they’d be clear. And sometimes you could look right in. Oh my God that was fun! Sometimes the ball would be clear and on the inside of the ball it was almost like it would be a multicoloured tower of colours.... It was always fascinating in school to see who had the nicest ball with their jacks. The best jacks were the ones that were made of metal...as opposed to the plastic ones.”

While she was growing up, Paula’s parents would play poker every Friday, and as an only child, she was brought along and was always surrounded by older people. She remembers that halfway through the game, the table would be cleared and washed down, and a lunch would be laid out. The whole crowd would eat lunch and cookies, and then the table would be cleared and washed again, and the card game would continue.

She played board and card games with her parents and grandparents, and learned Cat’s Cradle and some one-on-one clapping games from her mother. One of those games was “Say Say my playmate,” which she remembers as going:

*Say, say my playmate
Come out and play with me
And bring your dollies three
Climb up my apple tree
Slide down my rain barrel
Into my cellar door
And we’ll be jolly friends
Forever more, more, more!*

“I remember one summer our family took a vacation, and we went across on a Marine Atlantic vessel. And I have like, very vivid memories of being up in the staircase of the old *Nautica* and the *Atlantica* I think they were the old ferries then, so I was probably, maybe 9 or 10 years old, and I remember being up on the grand staircase...with a girl that I had never met, and that’s what we sat did through the entire trip across the gulf was just play these hand games.”

Paula Roberts is a tradition-bearer who has volunteered to be part of the Hoist your Sails and Run! project. If you are interested in sharing your memories of play and games during your childhood in Newfoundland, please contact Dale at 709-739-1892 ext 2 or at ich@heritagefoundation.ca. Photos: (top to bottom) Robert Hynes, Darlene Stanley, Rod Spurrell, and Paula, 1978; Paula and her son Ian.

